

PATENT APPLICATION

042390.P7651

Request for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 51.136

Assignee herewith petitions the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2001 for 1 month(s) from March 17, 2001 to April 17, 2001.

Please charge Deposit Account #02-2666 in the amount of:

<u>X</u>	(\$110.00 for a one month extension)
<u> </u>	(\$400.00 for a two month extension)
<u> </u>	(\$920.00 for a three month extension)
<u> </u>	(\$1,440.00 for a four month extension)

to cover the cost of the extension.

Remarks

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1-9 and 12-18 remain in the application and claims 10-11 and 19-22 are hereby canceled without prejudice.

Applicants believe there is no charge for this response because no new claims have been added.

Allowed Claims

Applicants would also like to gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 16-18 are allowed and claims 11-14 and 20 would be allowable if the objection as being dependent upon a rejected base claim were overcome. As indicated above, Applicants have amended the remaining claims in a manner the Office Action indicated would be allowable, and thus, the rejections stated in the Office Action are believed to be no longer relevant.

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It should be understood, however, that with this amendment, Applicant is not conceding the appropriateness of the rejections, in particular, the appropriateness of the combinations of the cited patents as suggested in Office Action.

Support for Amendments

As indicated above, claims 1, 12, 15, and 19 have been amended in a manner the Office Action indicated would be allowable.

In addition, the specification has been amended to correct other minor and inadvertent grammatical errors. This amendment is directed strictly to matters of form and, therefore, does not affect the scope of the claims or create any prosecution history estoppel.

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Conclusion

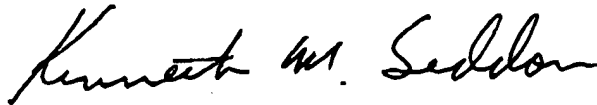
The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2001, and it is submitted that claims 1-9 and 12-18 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of amended claims 1-9 and 12-15 is earnestly solicited.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (480) 554-9732 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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